

The DAM EXAM

VOL. XLV No 7

DECEMBER 4, 1970

THE EVALUATION CRISIS

Faculty's Decision

... and then

At the last Faculty meeting, the members were presented with a course instructor evaluation program. This committee, composed of three teachers and three students, looked at different questionnaire systems submitted by different teachers or used in various universities. The questionnaire from Purdue University was chosen because it was in the most appealing form; 22 short questions with a 5 choice answer. Thus the committee adopted this system.

After the first draft came out, a few changes were made upon request. First, the following addition was performed. "Time required to prepare for this course (reading assignments, lab reports, term reports, etc.) was - reasonable, - excessive". Question no 24 on the final draft was "taking everything into account, I consider the instructor (s) . . . to "taking everything into account, the instruction was . . ."

Finally the committee demanded that Faculty accept the following conclusions:

(1) that all courses in all years, including Post Graduate courses, be evaluated, preferably twice a term as suggested by the Senate resolution,

(2) that 100% participation is desirable and necessary (i.e. that all students be required to submit an evaluation form),

(3) that this can be achieved most effectively during class time,

From these three points it follows -

(4) that it should be possible to read and answer the questionnaire in not over 15 minutes so that a burden is not placed on scheduled class time,

(5) that with so many forms to fill, student interest and dependability would drop if the number of questions was great and the form was too long,

(6) that a short question, short answer questionnaire which can be fitted on one side of one sheet of paper fills these requirements.

The Committee further proposes -

(7) that the questionnaire

evaluate both the instructor and the course with the object of aiding the instructor to improve his performance and course content,

(8) that the questionnaire be primarily to aid the instructor, (9) that the individual course instructor will administer the questionnaire and study the results,

(10) that the questionnaires be returned to the Committee in order that the questionnaire itself may be evaluated and revised as necessary,

(11) that they be filed by course in the Dean's office,

(12) that they may be available to students and Departmental Chairmen.

(13) that in the beginning no summaries be prepared for publication.

The Faculty accepted the first nine statements, rejecting the last four.

What kind of response is that from Faculty! I will concede that it is very unprofessional to advertise whether a teacher is good or not. However, refusing to have the results filed in the Dean's office is a different situation. This really means that the teachers involved are really not interested in changing their methods.

I would like to comment on sections 7-8-9 of the Committee's proposals. Many students feel that these results should be

available for the students; as an aid to help them choose their courses. However, this does lose most of its relevance here at Macdonald. We have a very structured curriculum where students have very few electives. The real problem, in many cases lies in the course content. This is not the particular teacher's area but of the course revising committee. Thus the questionnaire evaluation committee oriented most of the questions towards the instructors, thus helping them to improve the quality of his teaching. This is clearly stated in sections 7-8-9. Let's hope that these changes improve some sectors of some courses.

COUNCIL'S REACTION

At Monday night's Student's Council meeting, the main topic of discussion was the course-instructor evaluation questionnaire; more specifically, the staff's response to the system adopted.

As it appeared that the whole evaluation set up was going to fall through, council voted unanimously on a motion that condemned the Faculty's decision.

Summary of Motion

Whereas student recruitment has been highly successful and largely carried out mostly by the students,

Whereas the recruitment is based on the quality of its work and its pertinence in the field of agriculture,

Whereas the insurance of this pertinence can only be realized through the course evaluation, Council endorses the November 13 proposals of the Evaluation Committee,

Whereas Council urges Faculty to reconsider and accept these proposals as presented,

Move that if the Faculty insists on refusing the stated philosophy of the Course Evaluation Committee, Council refuses to support any further student recruitment efforts, especially when knowing that Faculty is not making any effort to improve the academic quality of the present courses offered.

The interpretation of the Royal was then discussed. As in the past, Royal has been the major tool for the recruitment of students. A straw vote was taken to see whether Royal was part of student recruitment. Unanimously they agreed.

Thus, unless Faculty reconsiders its decision, Students' Council is being forced to remove the Royal from the activity list.

DION'S LETTER TO STAFF

At the last meeting of Faculty, we adopted a report on Course Evaluation which included machinery by which the instructor could inform himself with regard to student reaction to his course. The machinery proposed in the report, in which the instructor distributes the questionnaire in class before the end of the term, and examines the results himself makes sure that it is primarily for the use of the instructor himself. There are serious psychological and practical reasons to suggest that it is more than one should expect of human dignity, for every staff member receiving a significant number of adverse comments to turn these over to his Departmental Chairman, for instance.

The system which operated in the Faculty of Arts and Science a few years ago was one in which the students made their assessments, and published the results in detail. The book was a best-seller - and was used by other institutions as a warning of which McGill staff not to hire! That course evaluation

system obviously did more harm than good, and it was dropped for this reason.

I am convinced of the virtue of course evaluation. I believe that course evaluation should be done on a confidential basis, by a questionnaire sent to the students after the course is completed, and returned to the Dean's office, for compilation and summarizing, and the individual course summaries transmitted through the Departmental Chairman to the staff member concerned. I believe further that summaries giving the general situation for all of the courses of the Faculty should be released to the student body, but that individual courses and individual instructors should not be identified in such a release.

Since human nature is what it is, I am convinced that this issue cannot be adequately debated in a staff meeting, and therefore such a practice is most satisfactorily instituted by direct administrative action by the Dean.

I propose to establish such a system, and will distribute



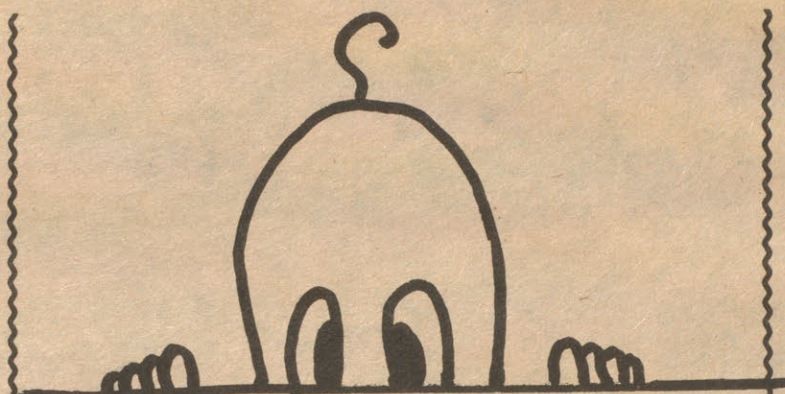
Dean H. G. Dion

questionnaires to students after the beginning of the second term, with respect to courses completed in the first term, and for all the courses of the 1969-70 session.

I will welcome advice from those interested on appropriate or inappropriate questions, and what methods they might recommend to ensure replies.

Merry Christmas

Good Luck in Exams



MUG WUMP

In this the last issue for 1970 of the Dram, Mug Wump presents the following awards —:

To Bell, Frost & Co., a small enclosed polluted box in which to house all of McGill.

To the police force, a Sherlock Holmes hat for their thorough searching of Macdonald.

To B.S., a sheriff's badge for his heroic effort to "clean up" the Bar Disco.

To B.P., our president, a horn to blow for remaining inconspicuous enough to never make this column before.

To no. 3 on the hockey team, a burned bra for advocating that a woman would make a good team manager.

To the House Committees, a bottle of milk, for not (yet) arousing the wrath of the One Who Watches Us All.

To the One Who Watches Us All, a billion bucks, to keep this place open.

To all those underage drinkers, a slap on the hand for trying to act 20. To all those overage drinkers, a slap on the hand for acting 20.

To P.B. and J.B., the S.P.C.A. Parent of the Year Award, for the care of and reporting on Flopsy and Mopsey.

To the editor, a year's supply of plagiarized editorials to help him through the coming year.



BOX 334

Published bi-monthly by the Student Society of Macdonald College. The opinions expressed herein are those of the Editorial Board and not necessarily those of the students' Council.

"Letters to the Editor" published in this paper express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board. The deadline for articles, advertisements and reports to be printed in the DRAM is 6:00 p.m. Tuesday evening.

The ad rate for budgeted campus activities is 84 cents per column inch. Non-budgeted campus activities see Ad Manager.

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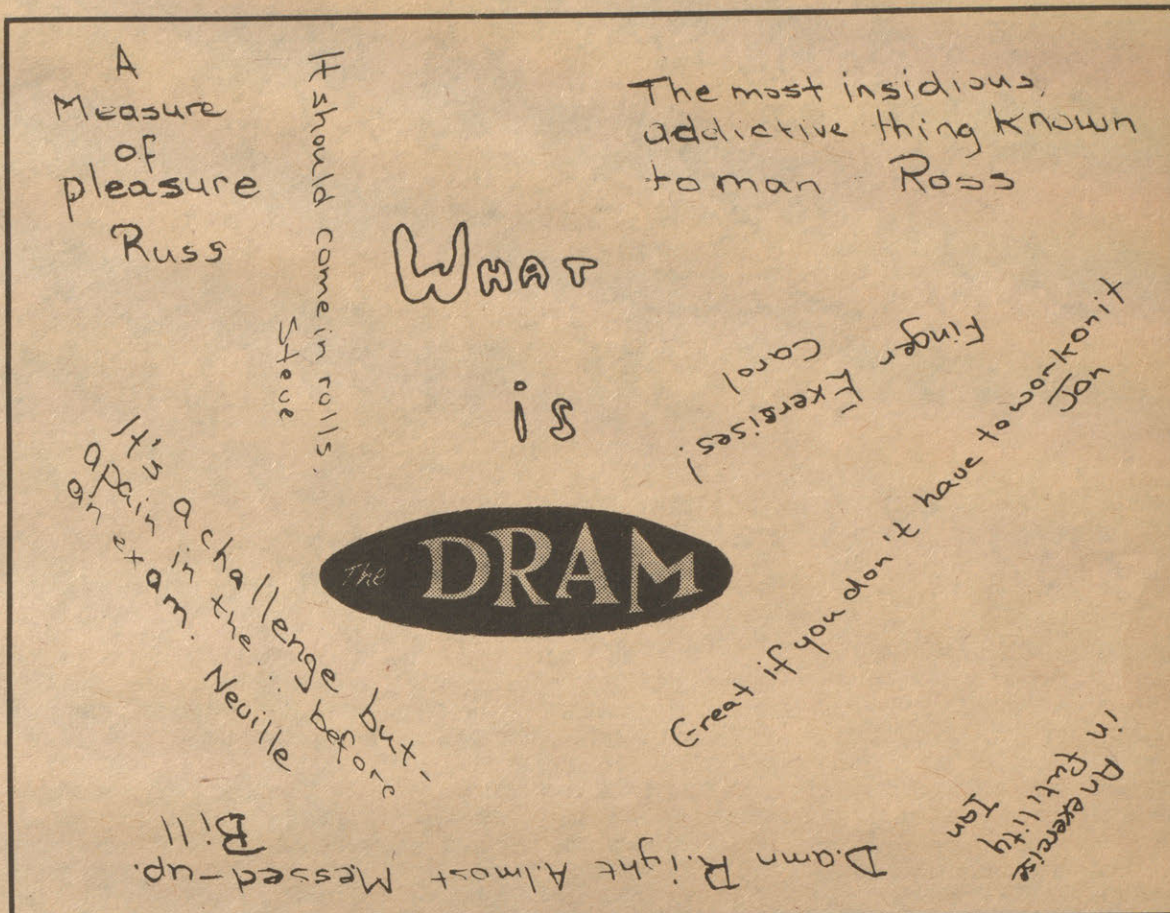
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Editorial Bored

alan stewart, bill suddard, edgar horner, carin wittnich, jim guild, andré pommainville, bob dalton, charles lalonde, neville mcandrew... and steve blackwell.



Post Grads Complain

Sir,

I note with interest the results of the referendum on athletic fees published in the Dram of last week. I would like to point out that the conclusion indicated in "Council. This Week" that "a significant majority of the student body are in favour of supporting athletics by an increase in the athletic's fee." is definitely not substantiated by this referendum (although such may be the case) however one may choose to analyse the results.

Approximately 20% of the student body (The Post-graduates Society) was given no opportunity to express an opinion on this subject. Although not necessarily true, it is quite conceivable that the addition to these figures of a possible high percentage negative vote by post-graduates would reverse the results of this referendum to the extent that a majority of students society members, in fact, are against a fee increase.

I therefore, suggest that quotation of the results of this referendum be done with extreme caution.

The amount of the fee increase may not be great, but one can think of many organizations which perform a more worthwhile and use-

The Dram staff consists of a group of dedicated, serious minded students. Here is a quick run-down of the staff.

The Editor: Little stevie is our editor. What a nice guy — He's always saying sorry, (Barb). He always writes serious editorials (with a little help from his friends) and even gets them published.

The Associate Editor: Neville lights 'em up! As well as being the associate-editor, he also grosses people out and plays the trumpet (at the same time). Neville also writes editorials, but he never gets them published.

Business Editor: How come there are so many beer ads, Bob? Does your father own a yeast farm, (or something)? Bobby's always picking his ads. Very carefully! And he always messes up the lay-out boys with

ful function, which are in much greater need of financial support, and are much more deserving of upwards of \$7,500 than the Athletics programme of this institution.

Alan Journet

Our Mistake Sorry Bob!

Sir,

I wish to bring to your attention and the attention of the reader, some errata in reporting in the November 27, 1970 issue of the Dram.

Results of a survey of undergraduate students were published as a Referendum. This was not a

Letters Cont'd on Pg. 3

his big ads. But do they really mind?

Lay-out editor: Bill is another nice guy. But he's always trying to get another 8 inches out of his staff or the typing editor. You should have been there when he got it! What a lot of B.S.!

Typing Editor: Carol has the fastest fingers in the room. Her aims are good, but her aim isn't. And besides, anybody can make mistakes.

Harem Editor: For the first time in a year and a half Barb has been exposed... (as the Harem Editor). She makes good coffee; but the way she serves it! That's HOT STUFF!

Harem Associate Editor: After Barb was exposed, Chris was soon to follow. Then again, there are two sides to every story. (Slimey spaghetti, huh, Chris.)

Darkroom Boys: There must be something developing in this group. Why else would they wear blue jeans with white spots on them?

Proofreaders: The proofreaders are lucky. They get to read all the garbage that goes into the paper before anyone else does. They must be very strange if they let this get published!

The Rest of the Staff: It really is amazing how this group of freaks, queers, and drunks and other nice people manages to publish this paper, despite the example set by the various editors.

This has been another public service from Wriggles; the people who care about students. Until next time, KEEP WRIGGLING!

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SPORTS

MAC BOUNCES U. DE SHERBROOKE

The Macdonald Basketball Clansmen took to the road to the Eastern Townships last week-end and returned with a 1 win, 1 loss showing. They displayed various types of basketball - everything from a scrappy, disorganized game to

a superb, highly polished performance.

Friday night, November 27, Mac faced Bishop's University and came out a very disappointed, defeated group. The Clansmen did not set up their offence well and allowed the ball to

change hands on too many occasions. To add to these troubles, they did not display the traditional Macdonald defence hustle and seemed very lackadaisical. Again the team ran into foul trouble which affected the game especially in the second half. Three members of the starting five were fouled out. Mac tried valiantly in the last minutes and lowered Bishop's lead to 3 points. But in the last two minutes Bishop's foul-shooting put the icing on the game. It was a bad loss for the Clansmen and the better team that night definitely won. Pete Munzar was Bishop's high scorer, with 24 points while Jim Guild notched 29 points for Mac.

On Saturday afternoon, it was a different story. The Clansmen came out on the floor

wanting revenge from their game the previous night. They combined a smooth, shooting offence with a solid, hustling defence which constantly put pressure on the opponent's offence. The offence set up their plans and patterns well and by the end of the first half Mac was leading 45-35. They didn't let this lead go to their heads as they had done at Bishop's, and they kept pouring it on right until the end of the game. Chris Hunter was prominent in the defensive rebounding department, while at the other end, Dell Hiscock bounded many offensive rebounds and scored 16 points. Jim Guild was the high scorer with 25 points and Ken Smyth who piloted the offensive game, dropped 24 points. In foul-shooting, the team dropped a respectable 78%. The final score: 96-66 for the Green and Gold.

On Wednesday evening, November 25, Mac hosted the Warriors from Loyola College. The Clansmen played a strong game and hustled all the way but they were completely outclassed from the start in height, play-making and bench strength. The game featured a lot of free-

wheeling, exciting basketball which Mac couldn't afford to play because of Loyola's height and shooting. Loyola built up a healthy 60-39 half-time score and eventually won the game 120-81. Although the score doesn't seem to indicate it, Mac should be proud of their persistence and desire exhibited in the contest. Gene Lawrence popped in 24 points for the Warriors while Jim Guild netted 30 points for the Clansmen.

Due to exams and the Christmas holidays, the team's next game isn't until Friday, January 8 when we host the hoopsters from Oswego.

Letters cont'd

referendum but simply a survey of opinions of undergraduate students.

The results of the Athletics survey was reported as "All Students". This survey did not include all students but excluded Post-Graduate Students, a very significant part of the student body.

Thank you.

Robert Perrin,
Président,
Students' Council

Right Or Wrong

by Les Parce

If Coach Murray's prediction of improving on last year's record is to come true, his team is going to have to concentrate on playing a more heads up brand of hockey than they have lately. In their last two games, one a league game last Friday night against Three Rivers, and the other, an exhibition game Saturday against Middlebury College, the Clansmen were defeated by the scores of 13-0 and 7-1.

Friday, Mac was outclassed by a strong hard-hitting team from Three Rivers, who showed great puck control and hockey sense, and who also took advantage of most of Macdonald's uncalled for bloopers. Saturday Mac again treated as they gave seven goals to Middlebury, a team that had no right beating the Clan, but who picked up on Macdonald's weak spots, and scored the goals.

Though these figures do not represent the hockey ability of the team, they are resulting in a lack of confidence and concern on the part of some of the players. Too many goals are being scored on breakaways, or by unchecked men in front of the net. Too many checks are being passed up and too many

passes and opportunities are going astray. To hockey players with the knowledge of the game that the Clansmen have, this type of play is an example of wasted talent, and its remedy now becomes the responsibility of each individual player.

This week the Clansmen play their last two games before the Christmas break, with Loyola, Tuesday night, and Laval tonight. With the team still experiencing injuries, increased responsibility will lie with the healthy players to give an added amount of effort and to maintain that drive throughout the game. A win tonight would be a good way to finish the first part of the season, and would make the second half sweep more certain.

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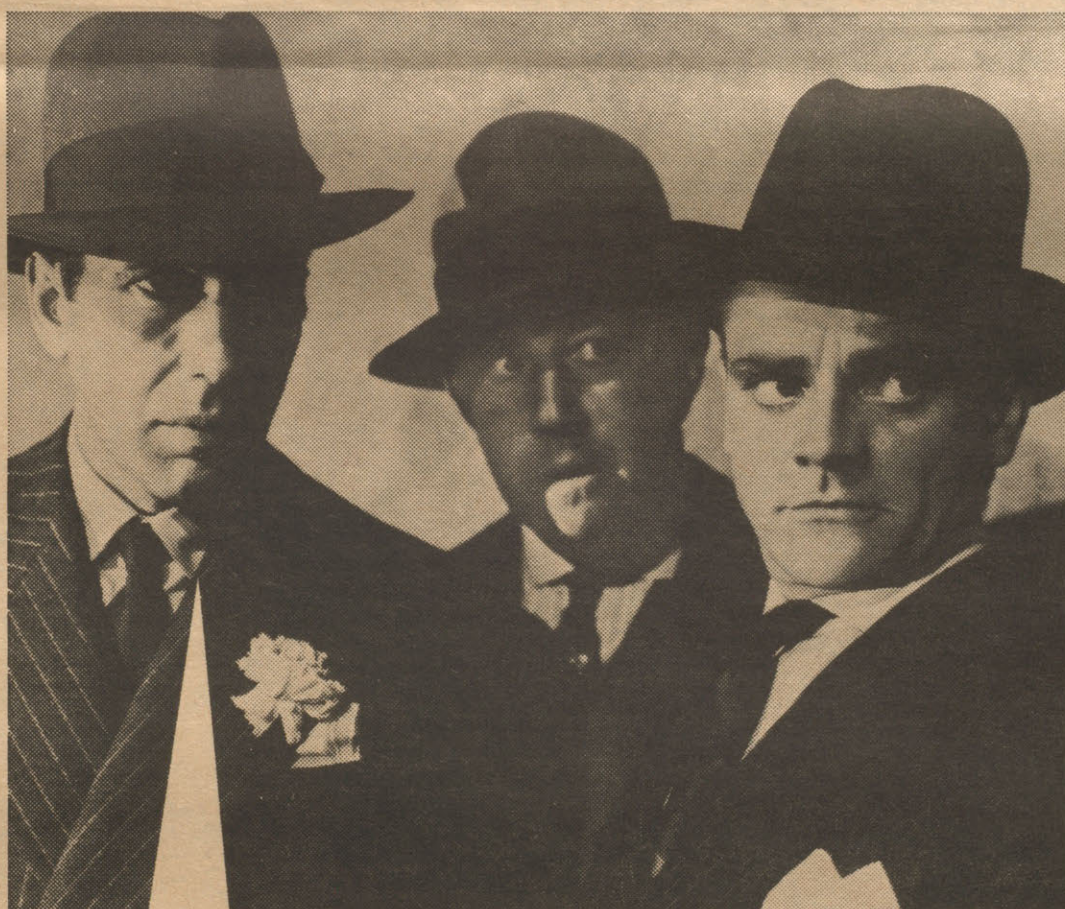
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When everything was wrong
And nothing was right



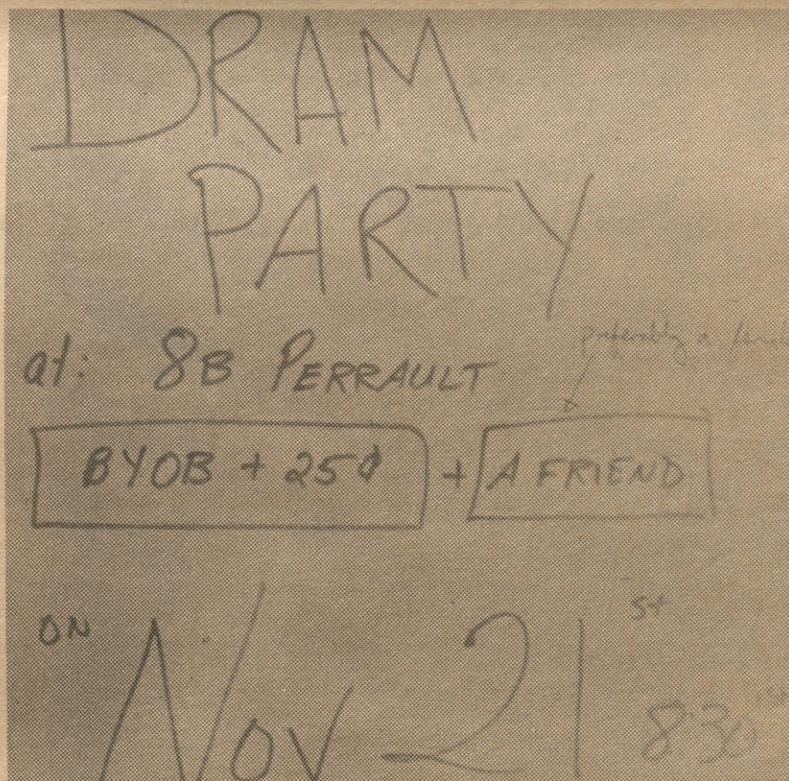
The Editor was working
And so were the rest
Then someone decided
A party was best.



So we organized the boys
And all the booze
To 8B Perrault
Our gang did cruise.

Many games we did play
And to our delight
The fun and the games
lasted
Far into the night.

And now in this last issue
When exams are so near
We wish all our readers
Good luck and good cheer.



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